

LIVESTOCK ON FARMS JANUARY 1				
YEAR	All Cattle (including milk cows)	Milk Cows (2 years and older) 1/	Hogs and Pigs 2/	Stock Sheep and Lambs
1935	1,713	NA	1,927	1,032
1940	1,357	NA	1,622	790
1945	1,584	NA	1,836	916
1950	1,553	618	2,889	911
1954	2,080	544	3,747	576
1959	1,878	275	3,968	728
1964	2,250	200	3,533	379
1969	1,387	40	4,712	609
1974	1,103	57	1,912	250
1978	1,112	69	1,245	(D)
1982	880	(D)	1,235	206
1987	1,025	153	1,573	(D)
1992	699	(D)	122	161
1997	603	(D)	104	64

1/ "Milk cows that have calved" beginning in 1970. 2/ Beginning in 1970 hog inventory data refers to preceding December. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

FARM INCOME AND SALES			
	1997	1992	1987
Number of farms:	108	111	130
Farm income and sales:			
	-Thousand Dollars-		
Crops Sold	4,751	4,232	2,791
Grains	2,994	3,220	1,668
Tobacco	----	----	----
Field seeds, hay, forage, and silage	(D)	118	26
Other field crops	----	(D)	----
Vegetables, sweet corn and melons	(D)	(D)	(D)
Fruits, nuts and berries	----	24	72
Nursery and greenhouse products	1,536	770	(D)
Forest Products Sold	(D)	9	----
Livestock, Poultry and Products Sold	163	283	572
Poultry and products	(D)	(D)	(D)
Dairy products	(D)	(D)	250
Cattle and calves	80	92	76
Hogs and pigs	----	----	227
Sheep, lambs and wool	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other livestock and products	(D)	(D)	(D)
Total income from sales:	4,914	4,514	3,363
Custom work and other agricultural services:	32	55	24

(D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.
---- Represents zero.

NUMBER OF FARMS, BY SIZE, GROUP								
YEAR	Size of Farm (Acres)						All Farms	
	1-9	10-49	50-179	180-499	500-999	1,000-1,999		2,000+
			50-174 1/2	175-499 1/2		1,000-Over 1/2		
1974	17	50	59	36	14	3	----	179
1978	5	56	46	31	15	4	----	157
1982	17	57	36	29	16	7	----	162
1987	17	44	30	24	9	6	----	130
1992	19	35	23	18	10	6	----	111
1997	20	29	31	15	5	8	----	108

1/ Applies to 1997. ---- Represents zero.

OPERATORS' OCCUPATION AND AGE				
	1982	1987	1992	1997

Operators by principal occupation:

Farming	80	58	57	55
Other	82	72	54	53

Operators by age group:

Under 25 years	1	----	1	3
25 to 34 years	10	7	4	3
35 to 44 years	35	32	21	17
45 to 54 years	38	28	30	25
55 to 64 years	NA	34	28	24
65 years and over	NA	29	27	36
Average Age	53	54	54	57

NA Not available. ---- Represents zero.



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Gloucester County lies in the coastal plain at the southeastern end of Virginia's middle peninsula. It is half surrounded by water with the York River on one side and Chesapeake Bay and Mobjack Bay on the other. Formed in 1651 from part of York, the origins of the county's name are negligible. However, Gloucester was probably named for either the Duke of Gloucester, who was son of King George I, or the town of Gloucester, England. The county is very rich historically; Gloucester is the site of Nathaniel Bacon's death and burial place and was one of the outposts of Cornwallis during the siege of Yorktown. Furthermore, traditional legend says that Pocahontas saved the life of Captain John Smith in this county.

In 1997, Gloucester land in farms totaled 23,211 acres, or 17 percent of the county's area of 138,617 acres. According to the **1997 Census of Agriculture**, there were 108 farms in the area, each averaging 215 acres in size and worth an average of \$591,103, including land and buildings. Much as in other areas of the state, both number of farms and land in farms in Gloucester have been declining steadily since 1934.

Temperatures in the county average a moderate 40 degrees in January and 77 in July. The frost-free growing season lasts for about 202 days, usually extending from around April 11 to October 30. Annual precipitation averages 47 inches.

The sale of farm products in 1997 contributed a substantial \$4.9 million to Gloucester's economy. Crops, mostly soybeans, corn, and barley, accounted for 97 percent of this total. The rapid expansion of soybean acreage in recent years, as well as higher grain prices, have contributed to the higher returns received from field crops. Daffodils, raised for both blossoms and bulbs, are also an important crop on some farms in the county. Livestock, poultry and poultry products accounted for just 3 percent of total farm income and ranked fourth to field crops.

As much of the county is surrounded by waters that are rich in oysters, crabs, and fish, the seafood industry is another integral part of the county's economy. The Virginia Fisheries Laboratory is located at Gloucester Point, and many small farmers supplement their income from fishing. In fact, over half of the farm operators in the county worked 100 days or more off the farm in 1997.

The estimated county population in 1990 was 30,131. The total gross personal income that year was \$476.4 million, or an average of \$15,810 per capita.

FARM DATA & LAND USE									
YEAR	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Avg. Value Per Acre For Land & Buildings	LAND USE					
				Cropland			Other Pasture <u>1/</u>	Woodland	
				Harvested	Other	Pasture		Pasture	Not Pastured
	Number	Acres	Dollars	-Acres-					
1935	1,336	65,762	55	16,456	11,471	2,936	853	NA	30,884
1940	1,253	64,175	73	17,231	9,960	3,303	NA	NA	NA
1945	1,078	61,091	74	16,025	4,807	2,177	1,397	NA	33,442
1950	842	57,468	113	15,184	4,099	2,050	1,047	NA	31,228
1954	596	52,458	109	17,265	1,012	1,853	1,584	NA	28,263
1959	455	49,355	202	17,126	2,312	2,230	997	NA	23,582
1964	314	44,963	239	15,054	2,546	1,567	1,237	1,394	13,295
1969	201	35,206	348	15,110	1,363	1,776	232	1,116	10,847
1974 <u>2/</u>	179	30,736	965	16,692	237	1,592	938	1,112	6,024
1978	157	30,459	1,406	17,067	1,007	929	245	2,182	6,850
1982	162	32,895	1,741	20,125	346	511	510	2,042	7,470
1987	130	25,831	2,198	14,991	2,255	1,069	275	276	5,270
1992	111	24,478	2,707	16,401	889	635	146	1,180	4,103
1997	108	23,211	2,598	16,153	544	407	337	942	1,620

1/ Due to changes in definition and wording of questions, figures for "cropland pasture" and "other pasture" are not always comparable from the Census. Acreage beginning with 1964 refer to pastureland and rangeland, other than cropland and woodland pastured, on farms with sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Beginning with 1964, agricultural operations under individual management with annual sales of \$1,000 or more. NA Not Available.

POULTRY SALES						
YEAR	Broilers		Turkeys		Hens & Pullets of Laying Age	
	Number of Farms	Number Sold	Number of Farms	Number Sold	Number of Farms	Number Sold
1945 <u>1/</u>	930	234,588	75	2,196	NA	NA
1950 <u>2/</u>	289	75,997	62	4,108	NA	NA
1954 <u>3/</u>	1	6,000	48	2,310	NA	NA
1959 <u>3/</u>	7	72,200	19	569	NA	NA
1964 <u>3/ 4/</u>	1	(D)	10	519	NA	NA
1969 <u>4/</u>	1	4,750	1	40	13	6,944
1974 <u>5/ 6/</u>	1	(D)	NA	NA	7	2,908
1978 <u>5/</u>	----	----	----	----	3	979
1982	----	----	----	----	3	730
1987	----	----	----	----	1	(D)
1992	----	----	----	----	----	----
1997	1	(D)	1	(D)	10	548

1/ 1945 Chickens raised. Turkeys raised. 2/ 1950 Chickens sold. Turkeys raised. 3/ 1964, 1959 and 1954 Turkeys and turkey fryers raised. 4/ 1969 and 1964 Broilers and other meat-type chickens less than 3 months old. 1969 and 1964 Turkeys with farm sales of \$2,500 and over. 5/ 1974 and 1978 Broilers and other meat type chickens sold. 6/ 1974 Turkeys and Hens & Pullets with farm sales of \$2,500 and over. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms. ---- Represents zero. NA Not available.

CROP ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION									
YEAR	CORN			WHEAT			SOYBEANS		
	Acreage	Yield	Production	Acreage	Yield	Production	Acreage	Yield	Production
		Bushels	Bushels		Bushels	Bushels		Bushels	Bushels
1935 <u>1/</u>	8,690	18.7	162,884	1,230	10.7	13,130	2,978	NA	NA
1940	8,462	23.1	195,288	667	13.2	8,777	NA	NA	13,267
1945	6,618	23.8	157,351	1,559	15.0	23,329	NA	NA	21,002
1950	5,563	33.7	187,605	739	14.4	10,605	4,250	17.5	74,430
1954	5,634	33.1	186,586	578	20.8	12,043	8,223	11.7	95,961
1959 <u>2/</u>	5,738	40.0	229,483	609	22.1	13,456	7,862	20.3	159,538
1964	4,508	61.8	278,645	398	29.5	11,727	8,144	20.9	170,235
1969	5,936	81.0	480,605	1,164	62.0	72,157	7,533	26.7	201,230
1974	6,991	96.5	674,457	2,492	40.0	99,688	8,191	25.7	210,760
1978	6,510	76.9	500,729	205	23.8	4,879	9,150	28.7	262,910
1982	7,196	105.7	760,705	2,060	40.3	83,019	11,565	34.9	403,631
1987	4,754	66.5	316,161	733	52.2	38,239	8,424	25.3	213,164
1992	5,385	129.1	695,419	976	53.2	51,874	9,954	31.2	310,688
1997	5,939	78.3	465,109	1,208	64.6	78,057	8,352	21.8	182,178

1/ All corn (grain equivalent, including silage and forage) 1935-54. 2/ For grain only, 1959-92. NA Not available.

CROP ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION											
YEAR	Vegetables for sale <u>1/</u>	Oats Threshed or Combined <u>2/</u>		Barley Threshed or Combined <u>2/</u>		Rye Threshed or Combined <u>2/</u>		Potatoes <u>3/</u>		Sweet Potatoes	
	Acreage	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels	Acreage	Bushels
1935	653	115	1,743	91	802	101	869	721	85,919	116	13,515
1940	578	274	6,335	112	1,987	113	1,145	404	47,039	78	8,622
1945	327	639	15,779	169	3,631	325	3,802	190	18,011	63	6,406
1950	153	851	24,197	80	2,325	149	1,749	99	12,270	12	1,724
1954	84	898	29,093	249	7,467	443	7,577	42	5,990	4	1,167
1959	42	581	20,662	578	22,939	209	3,887	7	912	5	1,564
1964	38	436	19,223	732	29,599	400	9,577	3	384	4	783
1969	11	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1974	16	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4	319	1	206
1978	8	55	2,780	918	51,308	(D)	(D)	NA	NA	NA	NA
1982	19	58	4,230	1,591	93,521	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1987	41	30	1,935	688	41,449	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	122
1992	61	29	1,370	1,363	95,778	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	460
1997	NA	NA	NA	1,006	74,030	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1/ Excludes potatoes and sweet potatoes. 2/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over.

3/ Potatoes are in hundred weight starting in 1959. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.

CROP ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION							
YEAR	All Hay	Alfalfa for Hay <u>1/</u>		Other Tame Hay <u>2/</u>		Small Grains for Hay <u>2/ 3/</u>	
	Acreage	Acreage	Tons	Acreage	Tons	Acreage	Tons
1935	4,497	47	129	1,127	1,223	120	95
1940	5,106	58	166	1,851	2,808	205	300
1945	4,282	86	229	1,601	1,577	228	239
1950	3,188	113	237	1,701	2,145	227	345
1954	1,646	177	312	706	669	179	172
1959	1,038	93	212	644	930	116	166
1964	1,370	16	17	1,041	1,588	106	158
1969	609	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1974	892	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1978	1,171	(D)	(D)	780	1,998	85	107
1982	948	(D)	(D)	699	1,079	50	70
1987	852	297	822	415	483	NA	NA
1992	901	297	1,060	525	1,513	NA	NA
1997	720	(D)	1,024	438	565	88	160

1/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. 2/ Beginning with 1964 includes farms with total sales of agricultural products of \$2,500 and over. Beginning with 1978 data are for all farms. Includes clover-timothy, lespedeza and orchard grass mixtures cut for hay.

3/ Beginning with 1978 data are for all farms. NA Not available. (D) Data withheld to avoid disclosing information for individual farms.